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Article 2

CMP230 Information Literacy

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URL: <http://www.infobarrel.com/Pica_Disorder_and_Autism>

Summary- Pica and Autism

This article talks about Pica and the effects it can have on children. Pica is a disorder where a person craves non-edible food, such as dirt, paint chips or soap. Pica disorder is often found in children with autism. Pica can become dangerous and is potentially fatal. It is important to seek medical attention right away so that the appropriate steps we taken to correct the issue. Many kids who have this disorder eventually with outgrow it, but children who are on the spectrum may require additional help so they stop the behavior. Pica involves chewing, mouthing or ingesting items that are non-food items. In autism, children with pica have been known to chew or ingest anything from paper and crayons to cigarette ashes and laundry soap. In severe cases, children will ingest their own feces. With this disorder comes some very serious health issues, which can be life threatening. These issues include(but are not limited to) bowel problems, lead poisoning, dental issues and parasitic issues within the body.

Response-

This topic is very interesting to me. I find pica in general to be fascinating in terms of why people get it and how it affects their lives. I also would love to learn more about why pica is found a lot in children with autism. As I work with this population, I would love to know more on the topic. I have seen cases of pica first hand in my job. One of my kindergarten students, who is on the autism spectrum, has shown signs of having pica. He often “mouths” or chews objects such as pencils, paper clips, wads of paper and glue sticks and has chewed and partially ingested part of a crayon. His teachers, parents, doctors are trying to intervene in appropriate ways as we are all concerned for his safety and fear he may put something non edible in his mouth and may choke on it. One thing were doing now is keeping a log of items that are ingested, the date and time it’s occurring and what was happening when it occurred(ie: he was on playground or sitting at the table during a lesson).